

Forces for their admirable service in protecting this great Nation.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA MUST SETTLE CLAIM OF HILL INTERNATIONAL, INC.

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my respect for the claim filed by Hill International, Inc. against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hill International is a New Jersey-based company located in the district of my friend and colleague, Representative JIM SAXON, and is one of nearly two dozen companies who filed claims against the Saudi government for tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated engineering work conducted in the late 1970's.

After years of trying to settle these claims, Congress was forced to set up a claims resolution process in 1993. Since then, the Kingdom has settled each claim save one—the \$55.1 million debt owed to Hill International.

During the House consideration of the FY98 Defense Authorization Bill, I supported directive report language offered by Representative SAXON to commission a formal report on the status of remaining claims against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Similar language was by included by Representative CHRIS SMITH in the State Department Reauthorization Bill that passed the House and Senate earlier this year. These efforts are intended to illustrate the lengths to which the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bander, has been willing to go to deny an American company payment for services rendered.

I am also interested in seeing this matter resolved in memory of the late Representative Bill Emerson, a dear friend of mine and someone who worked diligently on the Hill International claim prior to his passing. Bill Emerson successfully negotiated a claim against the Kingdom in his home district and graciously offered to broker a similar compromise on the Hill International matter. Despite six months of hard work by Representative Emerson and repeated assurances from Prince Bandar that Bill's good faith efforts would be honored, the Saudi's have yet to pay Hill International—full three years after Representative Emerson produced a fair settlement figure.

In that time, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON has tried to help Hill International implement her husband's compromise, yet repeated requests for a face-to-face meeting with Prince Bandar have gone unheeded.

No matter how large or small the debt, this behavior cannot be tolerated from one of our allies. Until Ambassador Bandar decides to play a leadership role in this matter and until the Hill International claim is settled, my House and Senate colleagues will continue to take to the floor and highlight the Kingdom's failure to honor its debts.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE CAPITOL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, interest in the idea of a Visitor Center at the U.S. Capitol has increased dramatically as a result of the recent tragedy there. The revival of this interest has been linked closely to the need to improve security and manage the large numbers of guests who arrive every day at this shrine of American democracy.

Prior to the recent shooting incident I contacted Congressman JOHN MICA and told him I would like to sponsor his bill to build a Visitor Center at the Capitol. My motivation was not security or visitor management, although these desirable purposes were compatible and complementary to my own interest. My interest was to pursue an idea that originated with my late husband, Congressman Walter Capps, to establish an exhibit and education center to explain, demonstrate, and involve visitors in gaining a better understanding of the "foundations of democracy."

During his short tenure in Congress, Walter became very interested in the fact that thousands of visitors from across the nation and all over the world flood the halls of the Capitol every day. These visitors are thrilled to pay homage to this shrine to the first successful experiment in a representative democratic government. Walter was struck by the fact that a visitor to the Capitol had very limited opportunities to learn about how our democracy works beyond how a bill becomes a law and what has made our own experiment so successful. He was also impressed that there were very few other opportunities in Washington, a city full of wonderful museums and exhibits on art, culture, technology, and history.

Walter and I shared a vision for a new educational center in Washington that would provide an interactive and multimedia exposure to the essential foundations of our American democracy. These foundations are, in fact, essential to any successful democratic society and perhaps taken for granted in our own country. What are these "foundations"? I am describing, among other elements, representative assemblies, individual freedoms, a free market economy, strong labor unions, vigorous political parties, a decentralized government with effective state and local units, and independent institutions such as academia, the judiciary, and the media.

As one crosses the spacious Eastern Plaza in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol in the middle of any day of the year, the dramatic white marble edifice looms over a cacophony of voices from all over the world, and every corner of our nation. Exotic clothing from other lands blends easily with groups sporting the ubiquitous blue jackets of the Future Farmers. I would love to see Walter's dream become a reality, so that these visitors to "the front door of democracy," the defense of which cost officers Chestnut and Gibson their lives, could return home with a better understanding and appreciation for the fundamental Foundations of that Democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 1998, I missed rollcall votes 367 through 376 on 10 amendments to the Shays-Meehan Substitute to H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, because I attended the funeral services of the slain Capitol Hill Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 367, 368, 370, 373, 374, 375, 376 and "aye" on votes 369, 371, 372.

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN ABNER WEISMAN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, when Stephen Weisman passed away this week, America lost more than a noted physician. We lost a man of ingenuity and foresight who dedicated his life to the needs of his country and his community. At the time of his death, Stephen was also a loyal resident of Northbrook in my congressional district, and I am very proud to have represented a physician of his caliber.

Stephen first dedicated a significant portion of his life to the United States Navy. His enlistment in August of 1964 was the springboard from which he rose through the ranks of the Navy, eventually reaching the position of Lt. Commander in just two years. His lifelong dedication to medicine was apparent even at this time, as he fulfilled his duties as the Great Lakes Naval Hospital Medical Corp with great pride and vigor.

After his stint in the armed forces, Stephen narrowed his focus in medicine and became Board certified in both the fields of Internal Medicine and Nephrology. He accepted a position at Highland Park Hospital and began a career that would touch the lives of countless patients in need of his expert care. By establishing himself as one of the most motivated and brightest in his field, Stephen's superiors promoted him to Chief of the Dialysis Unit. His peers at the hospital have already noted and honored his many great deeds at Highland Park Hospital.

Still, it seems the most incredible challenge in Stephen's life was yet to come. Ten years ago, Stephen was diagnosed with cancer, a disease that he so often had seen and diagnosed in his own patients. Instead of crumbling in the face of a life-threatening illness, Stephen rose to the challenge again and helped found the Cancer Wellness Center at Highland Park Hospital. He further decided to continue practicing medicine even in his weakened state. After ten years of fighting cancer, he finally had to cease treatment of his patients just one month ago when his cancer had become severe enough to put him in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen Weisman set standards for all physicians to admire and a legacy of work that will long endure. I know that I speak for many when I say that we will miss him.